

China Daily, 1 May 2006

Visit ushers in new era for relations

Beijing, April 30: President Hu Jintao's state visit to Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Nigeria and Kenya was of great significance to the development of relations between China and the four nations, Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said in Nairobi on Saturday. Hu's Arab-African tour, following a visit to the United States, has consolidated traditional friendship, enhanced mutual trust and expanded co-operation, Li added. President Hu Jintao returned to Beijing yesterday morning following a 12-day visit...

People's Daily, 1 May 2006

Chinese UN envoy warns against introducing Iran resolution under Chapter 7

Chicago, April 30: The Chinese ambassador to the United Nations, Wang Guangya, repeated Saturday his warning against introducing a resolution on the Iranian nuclear issue under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, saying that could be "dangerous." Speaking to reporters after a speech at a symposium in the University of Chicago, Ambassador Wang recalled that the United States, Russia, China and the EU trio -- Britain, Germany and France -- agreed at a January ministerial meeting in London to report Iran's nuclear issue to the Security Council...

People's Daily, 1 May 2006

Chinese premier congratulates Koirala over being sworn in as new Nepali PM

Beijing, April 30: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Sunday sent a congratulatory message to Girija Prasad Koirala, who was sworn in by King Gyanendra as new Nepali prime minister earlier in the morning in Kathmandu, capital of the land-locked country. In the message, Wen said he believes that the Koirala-led government will surely make new achievements in the cause of peace, harmony, stability and development in Nepal...

People's Daily, 1 May 2006

Editorial: China-Africa energy co-op, why the west pokes nose

Beijing, April 30: Reciprocity and win-win result are the cornerstone of China's cooperation with Africa on energy. The bilateral exchanges go further than energy. What China does in Africa is absolutely different from what the West has done and said. He Wenping, a researcher of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, compared the Sino-Afro cooperation with the behaviors of Western countries in Africa...

China Daily, 2 May 2006

Japan, China to hold working-level talks

Kyodo, May 1: Japan and China will soon hold working-level talks in an attempt to improve troubled relations between the Asian neighbours, a news report said Monday. Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Shotaro Yachi will hold three days of talks from Sunday with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo in Beijing and Guiyang in southwest China, Kyodo News agency reported, citing Yachi...

Taipei Times, 2 May 2006

MND to increase exports of small arms

Taipei, May 1: The Ministry of National Defense (MND) yesterday said it will export more military goods to the nation's allies and other countries in an effort to boost Taiwan's diplomatic clout. Ko said the proposed arms exports would be carried out solely on a government-to-government basis, to avoid having the weapons end up in private hands -- and that the military plans to sell only conventional military items...

Taipei Times, 2 May 2006

'Status quo' momentarily more stable - Emerson Chang

At the press conference held following the conclusion of the summit between US President George W. Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao (? ? ?), Bush seemed to do away with conventions of the diplomatic code by talking of "disagreements" between the two leaders, rather than their having a "frank discussion," in Hu's presence. Both sides will scrutinize and dispute this very public act of causing loss of face and its significance for global relations...

BBC News, 2 May 2006

Boom times at China's factories

Beijing, May 1: China has seen its official purchasing managers index rise to its highest level in 15 months, a testimony to the country's continuing economic strength. The index increased to 58.1 in April from 55.3 a month earlier, hitting the highest level since January 2005. The index is seen as a measure of the future growth of the

economy...

BBC News, 2 May 2006

China-Vatican talks 'should end'

Beijing, May 1: The head of Hong Kong's Roman Catholic church says the Vatican must halt talks with China because of its appointment of bishops without Vatican consent. "The dialogue cannot continue, because people will think we are prepared to surrender," Cardinal Joseph Zen told the South China Morning Post. His comments come just days after state-sanctioned clerics in the Chinese city of Kunming ordained a new bishop...

The New York Times , 2 May 2006

African oil deals cap Hu's world tour-Jim Yardley

President Hu Jintao of China has returned to Beijing after a diplomatic tour that began awkwardly in the United States, but ended with a swing through Africa that brought China several trade and energy deals. Hu ended his five-country tour in Kenya, where he signed an agreement Saturday for licenses that would allow the state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corporation, or Cnooc, to explore for oil off the coast of Kenya. Earlier in the week, Hu signed a deal that bought the Chinese energy company a substantial share of a major oil field in Nigeria...

China Daily, 3 May 2006

China urges Japan to fulfil promise on chemical weapons

Beijing, May 2: Beijing is urging Tokyo to fulfil its promise to destroy chemical weapons abandoned by the Japanese troops in China in the 1930s and '40s. Japan should destroy them as early as possible, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday. During a four-day visit that started on Saturday, Endo Otohiko, head of the Japan-China New Century Association, led five Diet (Japanese parliament) members of the association and toured some burial sites of the abandoned chemical weapons in Northeast China's Jilin Province and South China's Guangdong Province...

People's Daily, 3 May 2006

China works on policies to encourage production of bio-energy for oil

Beijing, May 2: China is working on fiscal policies to encourage production of biological energy as substitutes for oil, a move experts say would help China reduce its reliance on oil and build an environmentally friendly society. Zhu Zhigang, vice-minister of finance, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview that the ministry is working on policies that will enable the government as well as energy consumers to share the cost and risks of bio-energy production in case oil prices are too low for bio-energy business to be profitable...

Taipei Times , 3 May 2006

US, Japan reaffirm pledge on Taiwan

Washington, May 2: The US and Japan on Monday reaffirmed a joint commitment made last year that the protection of Taiwan is a "common strategic objective" of both countries, as they pledged to further strengthen their bilateral military cooperation. The reaffirmation came as Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso and Defense Minister Fukushima Nukaga began a three-day visit to Washington to sign an agreement on a realignment of US forces stationed in bases in Japan and deal with a broad range of security issues...

Taipei Times, 3 May 2006

Editorial: Getting the priorities right

Today, President Chen Shui-bian is scheduled to depart for Paraguay and Costa Rica for a 10-day state visit. But on the eve of his departure, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Office have not been able to confirm Chen's transit stop in the US en route to these allies. This is not the first time a Taiwanese head of state has faced this kind of situation, but it nevertheless goes against the spirit of Taiwan-US relations and violates diplomatic etiquette. It is regrettable that the US has showed no respect for Taiwan by making it difficult for Chen to stop in the US...

China Daily, 4 May 2006

China, US space partnership welcomed

Beijing, May 3: China looks forward to co-operating with the United States in the space field, and expects personnel exchanges between the two sides will become "normal", a senior aerospace executive said yesterday in Beijing. Asked to comment on the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) chief Michael Griffin's upcoming trip to China, the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp President Zhang Qingwei said China

had always welcomed such visits. He said that in January, a bipartisan congressional delegation visited China...

The New York Times, 4 May 2006

U.S. Says No to Overnight Stay for Taiwanese Leader

Beijing, May 3: Taiwan's president, Chen Shui-bian, delayed an overseas trip at the last minute on Wednesday after the United States denied him permission to stop overnight on American soil, a diplomatic setback for the independence-leaning Taiwanese leader. The rebuke suggests that the Bush administration remains displeased by Mr. Chen's move in February to abolish a government agency set up to study reunification with mainland China. The United States is also eager to avoid antagonizing China after some embarrassing incidents during a visit by its president, Hu Jintao, late last month...

The Hindu, 4 May 2006

China oil potential unexplored

Beijing, May 3: As much as 78 per cent of China's petroleum reserves and 93 per cent of natural gas reserves still wait to be verified said sources with the Ministry of Land and Resources (MLR). Despite good mineralisation conditions, China has to improve its exploration of mineral resources, said the MLR...

China Daily, 5 May 2006

EU to review trade ties with China

Brussels, May 4: European Union trade Chief Peter Mandelson announced Thursday he will launch a review of trade ties with China this year, saying Europe needs a new strategy to handle the EU's "biggest" trade policy challenge in the years ahead. "Europe must get China right as a threat, an opportunity and prospective partner," Mandelson said in a speech delivered in the northeastern Swiss town of Ermatingen, according to the draft provided by his office...

People's Daily, 5 May 2006

Chinese Premier urges pursuit of democracy and science

Beijing, May 4: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Tuesday that democracy and science are important for China to transform itself into a modernized country and the two things must be pursued. Wen paid a visit Thursday to Beijing Normal University, one of the most prestigious universities in China, celebrating the Chinese Youth Day with the students and young teachers. The Premier said that China should create a democratic atmosphere that can ensure people's rights to vote, to make decision, to participating in management and to exercise supervision...

Taipei Times, 5 May 2006

Finding changes in the 'status quo' - Lin Cheng-yi

During the welcoming ceremony for Chinese President Hu Jintao on his visit to the US, President George W. Bush said that the US was committed to its "one China" policy. He added that Washington opposed any unilateral change to the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, called on both sides to avoid any confrontational or provocative actions, and also said that Taiwan's future should be resolved peacefully. During the meeting that followed, the US president stopped short of promising to come out against Taiwanese independence, as Beijing had hoped, merely stating that he did not support it. US government officials have also said that they do not consider the mothballing of the National Unification Council (NUC), as changing the status quo...

China Daily, 6 May 2006

Taiwan leader's 'transit diplomacy' snubbed

Beijing, May 5: Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian's new attempt to promote "transit diplomacy" has suffered as his trip to Latin America turned out to be what the island's media dubbed "a journey to nowhere." The start of Chen's eight-day visit to Paraguay and Costa Rica two of just 25 countries that recognize Taipei was marred by his plane changing its flight plan in mid-air and making an unscheduled landing in the United Arab Emirates and the Netherlands. Taiwan's TVBS television reported on Friday that Chen's plane left Taipei early Thursday morning with the intention of landing in Beirut, Lebanon, on its way to Asuncion, Paraguay. But it landed in Abu Dhabi instead after Lebanese authorities denied it permission to land...

China Daily, 6 May 2006

First scheduled train to Tibet arranged

Beijing, May 5: The schedule has been set for the first five trains to Tibet via the new Qinghai-Tibet railway which

will begin trial operations on July 1, an official with the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Company said Friday. The first five trains will depart from Beijing, Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, Xining, capital of the northwestern Qinghai Province, Shanghai and Guangzhou, capital of the southern Guangdong Province, according to Mao Baocheng, deputy general manager of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway Company...

China Daily, 6 May 2006

China becomes world economy engine

Hyderabad, May 5: Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said here Friday that the Chinese economy has performed "exceedingly well" in the past years and become an engine of growth for the world economy. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) addresses the opening ceremony of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Hyderabad capital of Indian state Andhra Pradesh, on May 5, 2006. The prime minister made the remarks when he addressed the opening of the 39th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)...

China Daily, 6 May 2006

China opposes Chapter 7 on Iran

Beijing, May 5: Russia and China on Friday opposed key provisions in a U.N. draft resolution that orders Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions, making an agreement unlikely before ministers come to New York next week. Both nations object to the use of Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, used in dozens of Security Council resolutions for peacekeeping missions and other legally-binding actions. Although Chapter 7 allows for sanctions and even war, a separate resolution is required to specify either step...

China Daily, 6 May 2006

China left out of US-hosted anti-terror meet

Beijing, May 5: U.S. generals did not invite China to a meeting last week attended by 91 countries and aimed at boosting cooperation in the U.S.-declared global war on terrorism, the military said on Thursday. China borders several hot spots, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, and is home to ethnic groups whose members have been detained by the United States as enemy combatants. President Bush has highlighted the importance of working with China in the post-September 11 world...

People's Daily, 7 May 2006

Chinese FM to attend New York meeting on Iranian nuclear issue

Beijing, May 6: Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will attend a foreign ministers' meeting on May 8 in New York to exchange views on the Iranian nuclear issue with his counterparts from Britain, France, Germany, the United States and Russia. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao made the announcement Sunday. Li is invited by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice...

People's Daily, 7 May 2006

Chinese FM refutes U.S. religion body's report against China's policy on religion

Beijing, May 6: A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Saturday denounced a U.S. religion body's report against the religious situation in China, saying it interfered with China's internal affairs. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) once again took potshots at the religious situation in China and other developing countries in its 2006 annual report, spokesman Liu Jianchao said when asked to comment on the report. That part of the report which involves China skews and accuses China's policies on religion and ethnic minorities regardless of what some members of the organization witnessed during their visit to China last year, said Liu. The report also tries to encourage the practice of the Falungong cult...

China Daily, 8 May 2006

Japan proposes ministerial meeting with China

Kyodo, May 7: Japan proposed to China on Sunday that the two countries resume foreign ministerial talks halted due to a row over Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visits to Tokyo's war-related Yasukuni Shrine, a Japanese government source said. Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (2nd L) follows a Shinto priest, dressed in a white and yellow robe, on a surprise visit to the controversial Yasukuni shrine that prompted angry reaction from China and South Korea. Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Shotaro Yachi made the proposal to Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo on the first of three days of senior working-level talks in China, according to the source. The source declined to say whether China responded, saying only that "talks will continue tomorrow."...

People's Daily, 9 May 2006

China welcomes Sudan's peace deal on Darfur

Beijing, May 8: China on Monday welcomed the Darfur peace deal signed between the Sudanese government and a main rebel faction in Sudan's western region of Darfur. "The peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Movement faction is a major step in resolving the Darfur issue by political means, and China welcomes the agreement," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said on Monday. The spokesman also appreciated the unremitting efforts made by the African Union (AU), African countries and other parties concerned...

People's Daily, 9 May 2006

Sri Lanka, China CEO conference opens in Colombo

Colombo, May 8: The first China-Sri Lanka CEO's summit opened in Colombo Monday with the participation of more than 20 Chief Executive Officers based in China and their Sri Lankan counterparts. In his message to the summit, Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa said the summit "would not only forgather the peers of business and industry for objective discourse but also serve to advance and strengthen economic links between the two countries. During the two-day meeting, delegates of the two countries are expected to discuss possible cooperation in such sectors as information technology, banking and finance, transport and communications, tourism, agriculture, gems and jewellery, among others...

People's Daily, 9 May 2006

EU launches public consultation on EU-China trade relations

Beijing, May 8: The European Union (EU) on Monday launched a public consultation designed to form part of its forthcoming major strategic review of trade and economic relations with China. The EU executive European Commission will invite all interested parties to comment on how the EU should manage its relationship with China in the decade to come. The Commission's communication on the EU's trade and economic relationship with China is due to be published in the last quarter of 2006. The rise of China as an economic power is a defining development of the early 21st century, said the Commission in a press release, adding that it will bring opportunities and challenges both for China and the rest of the world...

China Daily, 10 May 2006

China, Japan agree to hold talks on gas

Beijing, May 9: Beijing and Tokyo have agreed to hold talks later this month on natural gas exploration in the East China Sea and work to set up a meeting between their foreign ministers at multilateral forums soon in an attempt to thaw their icy relations. The agreement was reached yesterday, the third and final day of a Sino-Japanese strategic dialogue in Guiyang, capital of Southwest China's Guizhou Province. Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and his Japanese counterpart, Shotaro Yachi, headed the two delegations. During the talks, Dai reiterated President Hu Jintao's remarks on Sino-Japanese relations made in a meeting with the heads of seven friendship organizations on March 31, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said yesterday at a regularly-scheduled press conference in Beijing. The crux of the problematic ties between the two countries is that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi insists on visiting the Yasukuni Shrine, a symbol of the country's past militarism, which has hurt the feelings of Chinese people and damaged the political foundation of Sino-Japanese relations, Hu told his Japanese guests...

China Daily, 10 May 2006

Build Sino-Japanese ties via more channels- Feng Zhaokui

Japanese leaders' insistence on visiting the Yasukuni Shrine, where memorial tablets of World War II war criminals are housed, has knotted up China-Japan relations, which is difficult to untie. The most feasible thing to do is to promote better ties with a greater variety of channels. The first thing that needs to happen in tackling the tough situation is promoting non-governmental exchanges in attempts to improve official ties. Sino-Japanese ties traditionally consist of two parts people-to-people interactions and official relations. Before the rapprochement in 1972, for instance, far-sighted Chinese and Japanese personnel prompted non-governmental exchanges to promote the development of official ties between the two countries, which eventually led to the normalization of diplomatic relations in 1972. As Sino-Japanese ties have run into straits, promoting official relations through non-governmental exchanges is definitely a political imperative...

People's Daily, 10 May 2006

China, Japan try to ease tensions with talks

Beijing, May 9: China and Japan concluded a three-day strategic dialogue Tuesday in southwest China's Guizhou Province with a glimmer of hope that tensions might be easing between the two countries. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said the two sides agreed to hold a fifth round of talks on the East China Sea issues in mid May. Early this year, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said that the two countries have disputes over the demarcation of the East China Sea and the Chinese side holds that such disputes should be handled through consultations. Early report said that Japan would never accept China's suggestion on jointly exploring the East China Sea resources and Japan would possibly take confrontation measures if China conducts gas and oil exploration on the East China Sea...

People's Daily, 10 May 2006

Substantiating China-Indonesia strategic partnership

Beijing, May 9: Scholars and senior government officials held Tuesday an open and constructive discussion on the unique Sino-Indonesian relations, which have been frozen for more than two decades but regained momentum in the last few years. The Chinese flood Indonesian markets with their cheap products, "threatening domestic industries but making the consumers happy" is among the frank opinions came out in the Jakarta seminar. All participants agreed that since Indonesia restored diplomatic ties with China in 1990, the most influential period to robust the bilateral ties has been last year when their two leaders exchanged state visits and established the strategic partnership...

The New York Times, 10 May 2006

U.S. admiral visits China to repair ties

Beijing, May 9: The commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific arrived here Tuesday for a visit aimed at rebuilding contacts between the two countries' armed forces. The commander, Admiral William Fallon, has a meeting with top Chinese Defense Ministry and Foreign Ministry officials on his itinerary Wednesday before touring military installations in other parts of China. Since taking his position last year, Fallon has repeatedly called for a full restoration of contacts between the U.S. and Chinese militaries. Military relations were broken off by Washington in 2001 after China held the crew of a U.S. Navy spy plane for 11 days after they landed in Chinese territory following a midair collision with a Chinese fighter jet...

China Daily, 11 May 2006

US: China not manipulating currency

Washington, May 10: The Bush administration on Wednesday announced it would not brand China as a country that was manipulating its currency to gain unfair trade advantages. Treasury's decision was certain to anger lawmakers who claim China is dragging its feet deliberately while flooding US markets with cheaply priced goods, but Treasury said Beijing was moving, albeit too slowly, on currency reforms. The Treasury Department ruled on Wednesday that China was not a currency manipulator but pledged to 'actively and frankly' push Beijing toward faster exchange-rate flexibility that would let its yuan rise in value. The administration said in the latest currency report to Congress that it did not believe China technically met the definition in the law of a currency manipulator. The report noted that China last July announced it was abandoning a fixed link of the yuan's value to the dollar, although since that time the yuan has risen in value by only about 3 percent...

People's Daily, 11 May 2006

China, US vow to restore comprehensive military ties

Beijing, May 10: China and the United States agreed on Wednesday to step up military exchanges at all levels after talks between the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific and Chinese military leaders. "As an important part of bilateral relations, China-US military ties have gradually been restored and developed in recent years," Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan told U.S. Admiral William Fallon. China-U.S. military ties were broken off in 2001 when a Chinese fighter aircraft was rammed and damaged by a U.S. surveillance plane over the South China Sea. Fallon's visit, the second to China since he assumed his post last February, was expected to help warm U.S. military ties with China. The planned 45-minute meeting between Cao and Fallon was extended to 90 minutes in order to cover a wide range of issues, sources with the Chinese Defense Ministry said...

People's Daily, 11 May 2006

China, India leap in competitiveness ranking

Beijing, May 10: The Laussane, Switzerland-based International Institute of Management Development (IMD) has

given a thumbs-up to China and India for their growing competitiveness. In IMD's World Competitiveness Yearbook rankings 2006 released on Wednesday, China and India have leapt up the rankings, China from 31 to 19 and India from 39 to 29. The US is still the world's most competitive economy but others are closing the gap, aided by better government performance and efficiency, according to the IMD report. Hong Kong and Singapore come second and third respectively in the IMD's 2006 league table of 61 national and regional economies, followed by Iceland and Denmark. The UK (21) is the top-rated large European Union country, with Germany at 26, France at 35 and Italy near the bottom at 56...

People's Daily, 15 May 2006

FMs meet to prepare for summit

Shanghai, May 14: The foreign ministers of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) members, a six-member intergovernmental group, will meet in Shanghai today to pave the way for the SCO Summit to be held in mid-June. The ministers from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are expected to sign several agreements after the annual gathering to set the final agenda for the summit. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told reporters earlier that the ministers would exchange views on deepening SCO co-operation and debate other international and regional issues of common concern. As Iran has observer status and seeks to become a full member, the country's nuclear issue has been given much attention, though Liu said SCO members are yet to decide whether to discuss it. In addition to attending the annual meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov began a two-day official visit to China today...

People's Daily, 15 May 2006

China, Tajikistan pledge to further cooperate in fighting "three evil forces"

Shanghai, May 14: China and Tajikistan agreed in Shanghai Sunday to intensify cooperation in fighting the "three evil forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism. The two countries will continue their joint crackdown on drug trafficking, according to a consensus reached between Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Tajik counterpart Talbak Nazarov. The two ministries will also strengthen consultation and cooperation in demarcation along the China-Tajikistan border, said a press release from the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Nazarov is in Shanghai for a foreign ministers' meeting of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which is scheduled on Monday. During their hour-long talks, Li and Nazarov also agreed to enhance exchange and coordination between the two countries to ensure the SCO summit, slated for mid-June in Shanghai, would be a success...

People's Daily, 15 May 2006

The misleading sensibility

The huge US trade deficit with China has been a thorny issue in the bilateral economic relations in recent years. Inexpensive Chinese products help Americans reduce their spending, curb their inflation and trim their budget deficit. But it seems that sensibility, instead of sense, shapes their judgment on the issue. For Americans, job losses caused by the foreign competition and price hikes caused by imports restriction bring them different feelings. The assertion that competition from low-end Chinese products leads to job cuts or even bankruptcies in American businesses ignites and sharpens particularly strong sentiment among people affected and media sensationalism sharpens that mentality. However, it takes time for the market to respond to imports limits by raising prices. In addition, the extra costs will be shared by all consumers. Therefore, the majority of the public have more tolerance toward slight price rise than blue-collar workers do for losing jobs. American medium and small-sized enterprises which fail in the market competition regard Chinese products as their threat...

People's Daily, 16 May 2006

SCO FM meeting convened to prepare for summit

Shanghai, May 15: The foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries met in Shanghai on Monday to prepare for the SCO summit to be held in city in mid June. "The meeting was pragmatic and constructive," Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told reporters after the meeting. A press release from China's Foreign Ministry said the six foreign ministers - Li, Kasymzhomart Kemelevich Tokayev from Kazakhstan, Alikbek Jekshenkulov from Kyrgyzstan, Sergei Lavrov from Russia, Talbak Nazarov from Tajikistan and Elyar Ganiev from Uzbekistan - signed a series of resolutions. "The upcoming summit will have a significant impact on the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. We agree to improve exchanges and cooperation to make sure that the upcoming summit will be a complete success," Li said...

People's Daily, 16 May 2006

US Admiral optimistic on relations

Beijing, May 15: Commander of US Pacific Command Admiral William Fallon yesterday expressed hope for heightened Sino-US relations. "The challenge for US and China is complex, but I am optimistic about the future," he said at a press briefing in the Northeast city of Shenyang. Fallon arrived in China last Tuesday for talks with senior Chinese military officials. During the visit, he also visited military academies and facilities in Xi'an, Hangzhou and Shenyang. This is Fallon's second visit to China since he assumed his post in February 2005. He paid his first visit to China in September that year. "I can think of no other issue that looks as big as the relationship between US and China. China's large population, culture and economy make it a top priority. This is why I took the opportunity to come back again," said Fallon...

People's Daily, 16 May 2006

SCO to sign anti-terror agreements

Shanghai, May 15: Heads of Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) member states are expected to sign 15 agreements at a summit meeting next month to strengthen co-operation in the fight against terrorism and other fields. The drafts of the deals and the agenda for the summit were agreed upon by foreign ministers of the SCO, who concluded their annual gathering yesterday at the Shanghai International Convention Centre. Foreign ministers from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan described their meeting as "substantive and fruitful," and reiterated their pledge to fight terrorism, religious extremism and separatism; and expand trade and economic ties. According to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov, the meeting also decided to strengthen the war against drugs and urged Afghanistan to participate in the effort...

People's Daily, 16 May 2006

Senior Chinese leader hails China-Sudan ties

Beijing, May 15: A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Monday commended the all-round ties between China and Sudan. "China and Sudan have continuously expanded cooperation in politics, economy, science and culture since they forged diplomatic ties in 1959," Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, told visiting Deputy Chairman for Political Affairs of National Congress of Sudan Nafi'a Ali Nafi'a. The two countries have kept close coordination and cooperation in international affairs, Li said. China appreciates that the Sudanese government has always supported China on the issues of Taiwan and human rights, Li said...

People's Daily, 16 May 2006

Chinese Defense Minister meets Bangladeshi Army Chief of Staff

Beijing, May 15: Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan on Monday met with visiting Bangladeshi Army Chief of Staff Moeen U Ahmed, saying China will join hands with Bangladesh to safeguard regional and world peace and stability. Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councilor, said that China and Bangladesh are good neighbors and the two peoples share ties of traditional friendship, noting that the two sides have forged effective cooperation in political, economic, military and cultural fields. The two nations share common interests in the promotion of regional and world peace and stability and in safeguarding the interests of the developing countries, Cao said...

China Daily, 17 May 2006

China, Japan to hold new gas talks

Beijing, May 16: China and Japan are expected to hold a new round of talks on gas exploration in the East China Sea in Tokyo Thursday, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. The row over the gas field is one of several issues that have dragged ties between the two countries to their lowest ebb in decades. Liu Jianchao, spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, takes a question at a regular news briefing in Beijing May 16, 2006. He said China and Japan will have a new round of talks on gas exploration in the East China Sea. Hu Zhengyue, director of the ministry's department of Asian affairs, and his Japanese counterpart Kenichiro Sasae, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian affairs bureau, will be top negotiators for the two sides, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said at a regular news briefing in Beijing. The two sides will continue to exchange views on the East China Sea issue and the Chinese side believes that the consultation will help both sides reach broader consensus and narrow differences, Liu said...

People's Daily , 17 May 2006

Russian FM: Russia-China ties reaching "unprecedented high"

Moscow, May 16: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Viktorovich Lavrov said Tuesday that Russia-China ties have reached an unprecedented high. "Russia-China cooperation has reached an unprecedented level and the two countries are competent to address all issues between them," Lavrov told a press conference Tuesday afternoon. The meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Hu Jintao in March upgraded the bilateral ties to a new level, Lavrov said, adding that a series of meetings will further spur the Russia-China cooperation in energy, machinery, high tech and transportation. Moreover, he called for the stronger energy cooperation among the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a six-member regional cooperation organization...

People's Daily, 17 May 2006

Chinese, Arabian FMs to convene in Beijing

Beijing, May 16: The Second Ministerial Meeting of China-Arab Cooperation Forum will be held in Beijing from May 31 to June 1, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. "The foreign ministers or representatives of China and Arabian countries and secretary general of the League of Arab States will attend the meeting," spokesman Liu Jianchao said. They will hold all-round and in-depth discussions on developing new China-Arab partnership and building China-Arab Cooperation Forum, Liu said.

People's Daily, 18 May 2006

China, Pakistan agree on basic terms of free trade pact

Beijing, May 17: China and Pakistan have agreed on the basic terms of their bilateral free trade pact, officials close to the free trade arrangement (FTA) talks told Xinhua in Islamabad Wednesday. At the end of the third round of the FTA talks between China and Pakistan, the two sides signed the minutes of the talks Wednesday, according to the officials. During the two-day talks, China and Pakistan also made substantial progresses in consultations on tariff reduction patterns. The officials said that the two sides were satisfied with the progresses made during the current round of talks, which laid good foundations for the signing of a trade agreement on goods by the end of this year. The fourth round of the FTA talks are expected to be held in September in Beijing. The trade volume between China and Pakistan reached 4.26 billion U.S. dollars in 2005, 39 percent more than that in the previous year. In the first three months of 2006, bilateral trade was 1.018 billion U.S. dollars, 42.3 percent more than that in the same period of last year.

People's Daily, 18 May 2006

China, ASEAN sign declaration on people-to-people cooperation

Beijing, May 17: Non-government organizations of China and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Wednesday signed a declaration vowing to step up people-to-people cooperation. "The declaration manifests the common aspiration of these organizations and enhances their friendship," said Gu Xiulian, vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress. The declaration says non-government organizations will step up contacts and exchanges, hold culture promotion activities and enhance trade and investment cooperation between China and the ASEAN nations. The declaration was signed after the one-day meeting between the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and ten non-government ASEAN organizations. The meeting discussed how to play positive roles in promoting political trust, trade, culture and local cooperation of China-ASEAN partnership. "Non-government organizations serve as an important platform to develop China-ASEAN ties and play an irreplaceable role in promoting all-round cooperation," Gu said. "We would like to step up people exchanges through non-government organizations and enhance social, economic and cultural cooperation, which will lay a solid foundation for China-ASEAN strategic partnership," Gu said.

People's Daily, 18 May 2006

China's top legislator arrives in Romania

Bucharest, May 17: China's top legislator Wu Bangguo arrived in Bucharest Wednesday afternoon to start his three-day official good-well visit to Romania. Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), is here at the invitation of Romanian Senate President Nicolae Vacaroiu and President of Chamber of Deputies Bogdan Olteanu. Friendship between China and Romania has a long history though the two countries are far away, Wu said in a written speech upon his arrival. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries 57 years ago, exchanges and cooperation expanded gradually in various fields, based on the principles of mutual respect and trust, mutual understanding and mutual support, he said. The visit is the first of its kind by a Chinese NPC chairman to Romania. During his visit, Wu will meet and hold talks with Romanian

leaders to exchange views on the development of bilateral relations and on regional and international issues of common concern. Wu expressed his belief that his visit will be conducive to strengthening understanding and friendship between the two peoples, to promoting exchanges and cooperation between the two parliaments, and to pushing the full-fledged friendly and cooperative relations of the two countries to a new high in the new century. Romania is the first leg of Wu's four-nation tour, which will also take him to Moldova, Greece and Russia, where he will also attend the meeting among parliament leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to be held in Moscow.

People's Daily, 18 May 2006

Chinese Vice President meets with Tajik foreign minister

Beijing, May 17: Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong met with Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov in Beijing Wednesday. Zeng told Nazarov that China appreciates Tajikistan's firm support on the issues including Taiwan, Tibet and its fight against the "East Turkistan" terrorist forces. "China will also support, as it always has, Tajikistan's efforts of safeguarding independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and its efforts to boost economic development," Zeng said. He also voiced China's hope that the two countries would cooperate closely in international agencies including the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to jointly promote regional and world peace and stability. In response, Nazarov said his country would continue to firmly abide by the one-China policy and hopes to intensify its cooperation with China on the fight against the "three evil forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism within a bilateral framework or the SCO to jointly maintain regional peace and stability. Both Zeng and Nazarov expressed their satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, trade and cultural fields over the past years. Nazarov is in China for a nine-day visit as guest of his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing.

People's Daily, 18 May 2006

Chinese Defence Minister vows to promote military coop with Pakistan

Beijing, May 17: Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan said on Wednesday the Chinese armed forces are ready to further deepen cooperation with Pakistan. Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councilor, made the remarks during a meeting with Pakistan Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Afzal Tahir. Cao said the friendship between the two governments, the two peoples and the two armed forces have always developed steadily despite the great changes in the international situation. He noted that this year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan. Cao said China is ready to make joint efforts with Pakistan to promote bilateral cooperation in various fields and further develop ties between the two militaries in a bid to safeguard world peace and stability and promote common development. Tahir said the Pakistan government, people and armed forces have always cherished friendship with the Chinese government, people and armed forces. He said Pakistan will try its best to consolidate and develop relations with China. Hu Yanlin, political commissar of Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, was present at the meeting.

People's Daily, 18 May 2006

US takes clear stance on Taiwanese agenda -Tao Wenzhao

At a House International Relations Committee hearing last Wednesday, Robert Zoellick, the US deputy secretary of state, sent a strong warning signal to the Taiwan authorities and some ironclad pro-Taiwan US lawmakers. This has drawn widespread attention. Earlier this month, Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian was denied a layover in the United States by the US authorities during his South America visit and he had to make a gigantic detour, which took him 37 hours to get to his destination. Chen vented his grievance to a number of US House representatives in their meeting on the sidelines of the inauguration of the Costa Rican president. His complaints struck a sympathetic chord with these US lawmakers and they asked Zoellick at the hearing if the US Government refused to allow Chen to stop in a US city because it was under the pressure of China...

China Daily, 19 May 2006

UN secretary-general Annan starts China visit

Beijing, May 18: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrived in Beijing Friday afternoon on a five-day official visit to China as guest of the Chinese government. This is Annan's seventh visit to China since he took office. Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan will meet with Annan respectively to exchange views on international and regional issues of common interest, as well as the cooperation between China and the United Nations. Annan visited the Republic of Korea and Japan before his China visit. He is also scheduled to visit Vietnam and Thailand.

China Daily, 19 May 2006

US negotiator on North Korea to visit China

Beijing, May 18: The chief U.S. negotiator to six-party talks on dismantling North Korea's nuclear programs will visit Beijing next week, China's foreign ministry said on Thursday, amid a renewed push to revive the stalled negotiations.. Hill, outgoing U.S. ambassador to South Korea, said that evidence proved North Korean nuclear material had made its way to Libya, and expressed concern about the potential for more proliferation by the isolated communist nation.Christopher Hill will hold talks with his Chinese counterpart, Wu Dawei, during the May 24-25 visit to China, which has played host to talks that North Korea has refused to return to since an inconclusive session last November...

People's Daily, 19 May 2006

Sino-EU ties at prime time: Chinese top legislator

Bucharest, May 18: China's relations with the European Union are enjoying their best ever period since diplomatic ties were forged in 1975, China's top legislator Wu Bangguo said on Thursday in Bucharest. Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, made the remarks in a speech at the Romanian parliament. He said China and the European Union have a wide range of common interests in terms of peace and development of the world. Thanks to their joint efforts, bilateral relations have withstood the test of time and have been moving forward smoothly, particularly since the mid-1990s.Wu said the achievement was credited to a series of factors, including the deepening of mutual trust, enlargement of cooperation and communication in trade and other fields...

People's Daily, 19 May 2006

FM brands spying claims 'fictitious'

Beijing, May 18: Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao yesterday deflected concerns over reports of Beijing's purchase of US military equipment, saying the allegation of spying is "totally fictitious. "Liu said China has a set of strict examination and supervision procedures for military trading and the Chinese military's importing enterprises will never purchase any military products from clients who fail to provide legal and effective documents. The defence came after a Taiwanese man who worked as a sales representative for the Pentagon's biggest supplier pleaded guilty on Wednesday to plotting to ship advanced US weapons to China, including parts for US fighter jets. "The so-called allegations that China is conducting intelligence collection of military science and technology in the United States are purely fictitious," Liu told a press briefing yesterday...

People's Daily, 20 May 2006

Romania, China agree to cooperate in large-scale projects

Beijing, May 19:Romania and China on Friday agreed to carry out cooperation in large-scale projects in order to further enhance economic and trade relations between the two countries.The consensus was reached during a meeting between Romanian Prime Minister Calin Popescu-Tariceanu and visiting Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo.Tariceanu said Romania, after joining in the European Union (EU), will be an important cooperation partner of China in the EU and will work together with the Chinese side to push forward cooperation in large-scale projects.The prime minister expressed his satisfaction over the full-fledged development of political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries in recent years.He also reiterated that the Romanian government will persistently adhere to the one-China policy.Wu, chairman of China's National People's Congress, expressed his desire that the two sides should continue to encourage enterprise and large-scale project cooperation between the two countries in order to promote the bilateral economic and trade cooperation to a new level.The Sino-Romanian relations based on traditional friendship have made great achievements in recent years with political trust enhanced and economic and trade cooperation expanded, he added.Wu arrived here Wednesday for a three-day official good-well visit to Romania, the first leg of his four-nation tour, which will also take him to Moldova, Greece and Russia.

People's Daily, 20 May 2006

Annan praises China for role in world peace

Beijing, May 19:Visiting Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) Kofi Annan on Friday spoke highly of China's promotion of world peace and development, saying the UN expects the country to play an even greater role in international affairs. Annan made the remark while meeting with President Hu Jintao in Beijing on the first day of an official visit to China.Hu said the world body needs to continue its reforms to improve efficiency so that the aspirations of developing countries can be better reflected. "Development should be a top priority," Hu said.

"Efforts should be made to create an international environment that supports the growth of developing countries and promotes economic globalization that is mutually beneficial. "Annan arrived in Beijing on Friday afternoon. China is the third leg of his five-nation Asian tour, which has already taken him to the Republic of Korea and Japan...

People's Daily, 20 May 2006

Chinese, Mexican officials sign agreements on cooperation

Beijing, May 19: The second meeting of the China- Mexico Permanent Bi-national Commission concluded Friday with the signing of several agreements on bilateral cooperation, including the Joint Action Program 2006-2010. Speaking at a joint press conference, both Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing spoke highly of what has been achieved during the two-day meeting. The Joint Action Program 2006-2010, they stressed, is of great significance to the guidance of China-Mexico cooperation in the long run and to the promotion of the full development of bilateral strategic partnership. They pointed out that the two countries will make joint efforts to materialize the program as well as other documents signed during the meeting, so as to promote a sound, continued and deepened bilateral cooperation for the benefit of the two countries and the two peoples, and for the common development of South-South Cooperation and the world at large. The Chinese delegation headed by the Chinese foreign minister arrived in Mexico City Wednesday and will travel to Bahamas on Friday.

People's Daily, 22 May 2006

China, Germany sign 19 cooperation documents

Beijing, May 21: China and Germany inked 19 documents of bilateral cooperation Monday in Beijing, with Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel attending the signing ceremony. These documents mainly cover such fields as railway technology, financial cooperation, high tech dialogue, telecommunications, energy, culture and sports. The two sides also signed a memorandum of understanding on the protection of intellectual property in textile industry. The documents were signed at the Great Hall of the People after the talks between Premier Wen and Merkel. Merkel arrived here on Sunday night, kicking off an official visit to China from May 21 to 23 at the invitation of Premier Wen. This is Merkel's first visit to China since she came to power in November 2005. During her stay in Shanghai, the last leg of her China tour, Merkel will make a train trip along the maglev line to the terminal, the Pudong International Airport. The Shanghai maglev train project is the important fruit of China-Germany cooperation in technological cooperation.

People's Daily, 22 May 2006

Chinese, Thai military leaders vow to develop bilateral military ties

Beijing, May 21: The Chinese side will work with the Thai side to further promote the bilateral friendly cooperation between the two armed forces, and the strategic cooperation between the two countries, said a senior Chinese military official Monday in Beijing. Cao Gangchuan, Chinese defence minister, told visiting Supreme Commander of the Thai Armed Forces Ruengroj Mahasaranond that the Chinese government will continue to strengthen bilateral coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs with Thailand. Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councillor, said the China-Thailand relations maintain a stable development and the two sides have achieved fruitful cooperation in various fields including economy, military and culture. The development of bilateral relations is not only in the interest of the two peoples, but also promotes the regional peace and development, he said. Ruengroj said the two countries are traditional friendly neighbors, and maintained long-term friendly relationship of cooperation. The Thai armed forces is willing to continually develop exchanges and cooperation with the Chinese side. Ruengroj is invited by Chief of the People's Liberation Army General Staff Liang Guanglie for a six-day visit to China from May 20 to 25.

People's Daily, 22 May 2006

Pakistan, China celebrate 55th anniversary of diplomatic ties

Islamabad, May 21: The Chinese embassy held Sunday in Islamabad a reception to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China. Pakistani Senate Chairman Mohammad Mian Soomro and Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri were among more than 600 guests present at the reception hosted by Ambassador Zhang Chunxiang. In his opening speech, Zhang touted the China-Pak relations as an "all-weather friendship", which has withstood the test of various changes and is featured by mutual understanding, trust and support. "Thanks to the efforts of governments in decades and leaders of generations in our two countries, the Sino-Pak good-neighbourly and friendly relations have

continued to grow stronger and achieved fruitful results from our mutually-beneficial cooperation," he said...

People's Daily, 22 May 2006

Sudan's ruling party eyes distinguished relations with China

Beijing, May 21: Sudan's ruling party on Sunday expressed its keenness to establish "distinguished relations" with China in the economic and trade fields and coordinate political positions on the international stages. "It is important to develop distinguished relations with China and coordinate political positions with it to serve the interests of the two countries," Deputy Chairman of the National Congress Party, Nafie Ali Nafie told reporters. Nafie made the remarks one day after he wrapped up an eight-day visit to China and returned to the Sudanese capital. During his trip to China, Nafie said that he held a series of talks with senior officials of both the Chinese central government and the Chinese Communist Party. Describing his recent visit to China as successful and fruitful, he believed that the visit would be a huge boost to the current relationship between the two countries in various domains. He reiterated that he considered the Chinese communist party as a close friend to Sudan. The Sudanese official praised the cooperations between the two countries, saying "there are excellent cooperations between Sudan and China and we hope to increase the size of the bilateral trade and investments."

China Daily, 23 May 2006

US may ease rules on China exports

Beijing, May 22: The United States may ease regulations on American technology exported to China if the importers can show they are not using it for military purposes, a U.S. official said Monday. Companies that earn such trust could skip some bureaucratic oversight on restricted technologies that could have either peaceful or military uses, David H. McCormick, the U.S. undersecretary of commerce for industry and security, told reporters in Beijing. The American Chamber of Commerce in China says that current U.S. export controls are too broad, opaque and unpredictable, driving some Chinese companies to avoid buying technology from the United States altogether. McCormick praised a current system under which a U.S. official visits Chinese companies to make sure they are not diverting imported American technology into the military. He said that process could be expanded. He did not mention any specific technologies, or give further details, but said a full proposal will be made public in the coming weeks...

China Daily, 23 May 2006

Ties with Germany scale new heights

Beijing, May 22: China and Germany signed 19 agreements Monday to intensify collaboration in such fields as railways, finance, telecommunications, and energy at a ceremony attended by Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The partnership between China and Germany in the magnetic levitation (Maglev) field has "been fruitful" as demonstrated by the operation of the 30-kilometre railway between downtown Shanghai and Pudong International Airport, Wen pointed out. China is conducting a feasibility study on using Maglev technology on a 175-kilometre railway linking Shanghai and neighbouring Zhejiang Province, Wen said at a joint news conference with Merkel at the Great Hall of the People. "Considering the investment is huge, we need an in-depth evaluation. An expected contract on the rail link project was not signed. The Maglev link between Shanghai and Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang, is estimated to cost 35 billion yuan (US\$4.4 billion); and a Siemens-led group is bidding for the project..."

China Daily, 23 May 2006

China, Japan FMs to meet in Doha: Qatari official

Doha, May 22: The foreign ministers of China and Japan, whose relations have deteriorated in recent months, will meet on the sidelines of an Asian forum opening in Doha on Tuesday, a Qatari official said. Foreign ministers from the 28-nation Asia Cooperation Dialogue "discuss matters totally unrelated to any contentious issues" in plenary sessions, foreign ministry official Abdulrahman al-Khulaifi told reporters late Monday. "But bilateral meetings are held (during) the presence of the Asian foreign ministers in the host country. For instance, the foreign minister of Japan and the foreign minister of China will meet in Doha for the first time," he said. Japan has been pushing for a meeting with China, which would be the first between the Asian powers' foreign ministers in a year and the first since the hawkish Taro Aso was appointed in October. Japanese officials remained cautious about China's reported agreement to meet on the sidelines of the two-day ACD forum, which will focus on energy and other aspects of economic cooperation between member states...

China Daily, 23 May 2006

India official to visit Japan, China for military ties

Beijing, May 22: India's defence minister will visit Japan and China this week to forge closer links on military cooperation including anti-terrorism, a defence ministry official said. Pranab Mukherjee will be accompanied by senior civil and military officials during his May 25-June 1 trip, said the official who did not wish to be named. The defence ministry said Mukherjee would arrive in Japan on Thursday. Besides talks with his counterpart, Mukherjee would also meet the Japanese ministers for infrastructure and foreign affairs and the chief cabinet secretary, the ministry said in a statement. Issues likely to figure during talks would include "the need for close defence cooperation ... for promotion of peace and stability in Asia and at global level," the statement said. Countering terrorism and extremism, strengthening the stability of regional maritime traffic and the promotion of cooperation in the areas of disaster management would also be discussed, the statement said. New Delhi hoped Japanese defence industries would play a niche role in India's defence modernisation programme, the statement said...

People's Daily, 23 May 2006

Pakistan, China composite media collaborations

Beijing, May 22: Pakistan and China are today celebrating 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two exemplary friendly neighbours. Of course this is an historic event and a matter of real pride and honour for the governments as well as the people of both the countries to have achieved such a milestone. 55 years back, when Pakistan and China were signing the papers to establish formal diplomatic relations, the media, not only in these countries, but also all over the world was, by no means, as fast and as strong tool of information as it is today. With the passage of time, media continued to flourish and attain more and more mature status in both the countries. There is no doubt that Pakistani and Chinese media, both had been playing some role in bringing the people of the two nations closer, yet there was always an acute need of a better and stronger interaction amongst the media personnel from both the countries...

People's Daily, 24 May 2006

Greece-China's cooperation fruitful, says Greek president

Athens, May 23: Greek President Karolos Papoulias said Tuesday in Athens that Greece and China have had fruitful cooperation in the fields of economy and trade, sea shipment, tourism and Olympic Games. Meeting with visiting Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Wu Bangguo, the president said relations between Greece and China has a long history and are now at a stage of best development. He said Greece is willing to work harder to strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries. Wu said that at present, the Sino-Greek relations are vigorous with high-level visits exchanged frequently, mutual political trust enhanced and economic and trade cooperation expanded. The Chinese leader said China treasures its traditional friendship with Greece and thinks much of developing its relations with Greece, and is willing to work together with the Greek side to boost practical cooperation in various areas between the two countries. The two leaders also touched on major international and regional issues...

People's Daily, 24 May 2006

China urges Japan to remove obstacle to improving ties

Doha, May 23: Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Tuesday in Doha urged the Japanese government to remove political obstacle to improving and developing bilateral ties. During a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso, Li said that a correct understanding and treatment of the unfortunate period of the history constitutes an important political basis for restoration and development of post-war bilateral ties. He stressed that Japanese leaders' insistence on paying homage at the Yasukuni Shrine that honors convicted Japanese war criminals severely hurts the Chinese people's feeling and harms political basis for bilateral ties. "It is imperative to remove such an obstacle to improving and developing bilateral ties," Li said. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the fifth ministerial meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue in the Qatari capital of Doha, which opened on Tuesday and will end on Wednesday...

China Daily, 24 May 2006

Pentagon: US surprised by rapid arms modernization

Washington, May 23: An annual report from the US Department of Defense says that China has extended its military capability and caught the Pentagon somewhat off guard. The outside world has little knowledge of Chinese intentions and decision making of its key capabilities while China is modernizing its armed forces, said the 2006 "Military Power of the People's Republic of China", which was released on Tuesday. The report, delivered to the US Congress, guesses Chinese defense expenditure at "two to three times the officially disclosed figures". China's

foreign ministry is yet to respond to the Pentagon report. China's military spending of less than US\$40 billion in 2005 is only one-10th that of the United States. Chinese officials have once and again dismissed US warnings about its modernization, saying the military build-up serves national security needs and protecting its territory as any large nation would...

People's Daily, 24 May 2006

China-Germany relations get a boost as German Chancellor's China trip ends

Beijing, May 23:Prospects for China-Germany relations appear brighter than ever after the two countries reached consensus on a wide-range of issues and signed 19 agreements during German Chancellor Angela Merkel's two-day visit to China which ended Tuesday afternoon.This afternoon the Chancellor rode the world's only commercially operating magnetic levitation rail line to the Pudong International Airport in Shanghai where she boarded her flight back to Germany.During her meeting with Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng, Merkel reiterated her government's commitment to boosting economic and trade cooperation with China.Analysts believe Merkel's remarks are a strong indicator that China-Germany relations will be a high priority during her term...

China Daily, 25 May 2006

Pentagon paper shows 'Cold-War mentality'

Beijing, May 24:Beijing strongly resents, and firmly disagrees with, the latest Pentagon report that claims China is rapidly extending its military reach and potentially poses a threat to other countries in the region. The report, which exaggerates China's military strength and expenditure out of ulterior motives, is based on "Cold-War mentality," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said yesterday. By spreading the "China threat" theory, the report has seriously violated principles governing international relations and intervened in China's internal affairs, he said. He noted that China is a peace-loving country and adopts a national defence policy of a defensive nature. "It is universally recognized that China is an important force in promoting peace in the Asia Pacific and the world at large," Liu said. He said Taiwan is an inalienable part of China and urged the US side to stop selling weapons to the island or sending wrong signals to Taiwan secessionist forces...

China Daily, 25 May 2006

Kazakhstan oil piped into China

Xinjiang, May 24: Crude oil from Kazakhstan poured into China Thursday morning through a newly completed petroleum pipeline linking the two countries. This is the first time for imported oil to be directly pipelined into China. Brownish oil sprang into a petroleum hub in Alataw Pass, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, at 3:10 a.m. Thursday, about 30 hours after Kazakhstan began pumping oil into the 960-km pipeline, customs officers at the Alataw Pass told Xinhua/Technicians with the Sino-Kazakh Oil Pipeline Co. Ltd opened the valve on the China-Kazakhstan border at 7:32 p.m. Tuesday after instructions were received from their Kazak counterparts in Atasu, who started to pump oil into the pipeline at 8:22 p.m. the same day. Industry insiders say construction of the oil pipeline is a win-win strategy for both countries as it enhances China's oil supply and proves an ideal outlet for Kazakhstan's oil export...

People's Daily, 25 May 2006

China, ASEAN to hold 12th senior consultation in Cambodia

Beijing, May 24:Representatives from the Chinese government and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold the 12th senior officials consultation next week in Cambodia, China's Foreign Ministry said Thursday. Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, counterparts from ASEAN nations and ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong will attend the meeting on May 29 and 30 in Siemreab. The consultation was launched in 1995 as an annual event at which the two sides could exchange opinions. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that officials would also prepare for the China-ASEAN commemorative summit in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi autonomous region, in October to mark the 15th anniversary of the China-ASEAN dialogue...

People's Daily, 25 May 2006

Sino-Russian cooperation, exchange on fast track

Beijing, May 24:Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), will arrive in Moscow on Sunday for a three-day visit, during which he will meet Russian leaders and top legislators of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) members.This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of China-Russia strategic partnership of cooperation and the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Good-neighborly Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between China and Russia. China's ambassador to Russia

Liu Guchang has said that the hosting of "Year of Russia" and "Year of China" in 2006 and 2007 will further enhance understanding and political trust between China and Russia. As mutual political trust deepened, the China-Russia ties have reached a historic height. A regular communication mechanism is now in place between the NPC and Russia's State Duma, lower house of parliament, and the Federal Committee, or the upper house...

China Daily, 26 May 2006

Pipeline dream came true

Xinjiang, May 25: Crude oil from Kazakhstan began flowing into Xinjiang in Northwest China Thursday, the first time a pipeline has been used for imports. Experts say the piped oil would increase supply, improve energy security and provide an ideal outlet for Kazakhstan's exports. The first-phase 962-kilometre pipeline which originates in Atasu, Kazakhstan was completed late last year at an expenditure of US\$700 million. The two countries split the construction costs. The pipeline will pump 10 million tons of crude a year, the amount doubling when the project is completed in 2011, linking Atyrau on the Caspian Sea. The total length of the pipeline would then be around 3,000 kilometres. The pipeline is designed to eventually carry 20 million tons annually, equivalent to 140 million barrels. China imported 127 million tons of crude last year, which made up about 40 per cent of total consumption...

People's Daily, 26 May 2006

China refutes U.S. criticism of its military power

Beijing, May 25: China on Thursday refuted the criticism of the United States characterizing its military budget as "absent greater transparency," saying such criticism showed "cold-war mentality." "China is sincere in terms of its military expenditure and its efforts for increasing mutual trust on defense with other countries," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao, commenting on a U.S. annual report on China military power. The report, issued by the U.S. Defense Ministry recently, continued to spread the "China threat" fallacy and severely violated the principles governing international relations. "China, a large country with long borders, is facing the task of safeguarding national sovereignty and striving for reunification," said Liu. "Thus it is quite normal for China to properly increase its military expenditure. "On Wednesday, Liu said the report has exaggerated China's military power and military expenditure with ulterior motives and wantonly interfered in China's internal affairs. Liu also refuted the allegation that China's development is now "at a crossroads", saying China will steadfastly pursue its only road of peaceful development...

People's Daily, 26 May 2006

China sincere about improving ties with the Vatican, FM spokesman

Beijing, May 25: A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Beijing Thursday that the communication channel between China and the Vatican is "unblocked" and China is sincere about wanting to improve ties with the Vatican. Reports say that Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen will depart for the Vatican on Friday and may meet with Pope Benedict XVI to discuss Sino-Vatican relations. Spokesman Liu Jianchao said China hopes the Vatican will respect the Chinese government's religious policies and relevant laws and stop interfering in China's domestic affairs under the pretext of religion. He said the Chinese government has two principles in dealing with relations with the Vatican. First the Vatican must terminate its so-called diplomatic links with Taiwan, and it should not interfere in China's internal affairs, including any intervention under the pretext of religious affair.

People's Daily, 26 May 2006

China calls for Japan's cooperation to mend ties

Beijing, May 25: A senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official said in Beijing Thursday that China hopes Japan would work with China to push bilateral ties back on the track. "We hope Japan would take concrete measures to push China-Japan ties back on the track of healthy and stable development," He Guoqiang, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, told Tetsuzo Fuwa, former chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Japan. Leaders of the two countries have suspended exchanges since 2001, after Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro began paying homage at the controversial Yasukuni Shrine that honors convicted Japanese war criminals. He Guoqiang said leaders of the CPC and the Chinese government have expressed commitment to improving China-Japan ties on many occasions, which shows China's positive attitude and sincerity...

People's Daily, 28 May 2006

China's top legislator starts official visit to Russia

Beijing, May 27: China's top legislator Wu Bangguo arrived here Friday afternoon to start his official and goodwill

visit to Russia. Wu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), said in a written speech upon his arrival that China and Russia have carried forward friendly tradition and composed a new chapter of neighborly friendship under new circumstances. Mutual political trust has been strengthened, cooperation in various fields has been expanded and strategic coordination improved. All these have brought benefits to the two peoples and made great contributions to the maintaining of world peace and stability, Wu said. During his 4-day visit in Russia, the Chinese top legislator will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, Federation Council Chairman Sergei Mironov and State Duma Chairman Boris Gryzlov to exchange views with them on bilateral relations and international issues of common concerns. Wu will also attend the first meeting of the cooperation committee between the NPC and the State Duma, and the meeting among parliament leaders of the 6-member Shanghai Cooperation Organization to be held in Moscow...

China Daily, 28 May 2006

China decides to quit Asian marine drill

Beijing, May 27: China is unlikely to take part in an Asian security drill scheduled to begin off Shanghai on Saturday, the Japan Coast Guard said. China, the United States, South Korea, Canada and Russia are all scheduled to take part in the drill. The event would have been the first time China had participated in such a joint exercise. "We are still hoping that the Chinese will take part, but the prospects are not good," said one Japan Coast Guard official. Japanese coast guard officials co-ordinating the event have stressed that the exercise is not connected to the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) because no military forces are involved. The drill scenario is based on a simulation of a suspicious ship being refused entry to the port of Shanghai and then being tracked by Chinese and other coast guard ships in turn. The initial plan released by Japan's Coast Guard had referred to the ship being from a country suspected of exporting weapons of mass destruction. A revised scenario removed this reference and instead spoke of a "ship suspected of smuggling goods and people."...

China Daily, 28 May 2006

China urges FTA with South Korea

Beijing, May 27: China has urged a free trade agreement (FTA) with South Korea in order to help boost burgeoning trade and investment between the two countries, officials said. The suggestion came as Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai met with his South Korean counterpart Chung Sye-Kyun, officials of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy said. Bo stressed the need to push forward free trade agreement talks. Beijing seeks an FTA with Seoul to help ease its chronic trade deficit with South Korea. Bo raised the same issue when he met with South Korean Trade Minister Kim Hyun-Chong here Friday, according to the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Affairs. South Korea is reluctant to rush into an FTA with China amid fears that low-priced Chinese agricultural products could flood the domestic market, causing trouble for the country's already impoverished farmers. South Korea and China have agreed to make efforts to double bilateral trade to 200 billion dollars per year by the year 2012. Bo also expressed concern over what he called a militant union at Ssangyong Motor, which was acquired by Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp. in October 2004...

People's Daily, 29 May 2006

China, Malaysia to step up defense cooperation

Beijing, May 28: Chinese and Malaysian military leaders on Friday agreed to intensify cooperation in defense to safeguard regional stability. Malaysia's Chief of Armed Forces Tan Sri Dato Sri Mohd Anwar bin Hj Nor, who is on a six-day visit to China, held talks with Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Liang Guanglie. They agreed that friendly exchanges and cooperation were in the interests of both countries and would help safeguard regional peace and stability. Liang expressed China's appreciation for the Malaysian government's one-China policy. After the talks, Anwar also met with China's Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan.

Xinhua, 29 May 2006

Chinese, Japanese trade ministers meet for closer co-op

Tokyo, May 28: Visiting Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai met with his Japanese counterpart Toshihiro Nikai on Saturday in Kyoto and discussed bilateral ties, trade, energy-saving cooperation and other issues, diplomatic sources said late Sunday. "Cold (bilateral) ties have continued on the political front. This has affected economic and trade relations," Bo was quoted as saying at the meeting. He noted that the difficulty in bilateral relations arose not because of the Chinese side or the Japanese people, but because of the Japanese leader's insistence on visiting the war-linked Yasukuni Shrine, where top war criminals are honored. Bo expressed his hope that Japan would have a right view on history and create conditions for closer trade cooperation in the future. Bo is attending a three-day

forum on energy saving and environment conservation which starts Monday in Tokyo. Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Nikai expressed willingness to mend fences between the two countries by promoting economic cooperation. He said at the meeting that Japan plans to take the forum as an opportunity to enhance cooperation in energy saving and bilateral exchanges...

Xinhua, 29 May 2006

Top legislator speaks highly of regional co-op with Russia

Volgograd, May 28: China's top legislator Wu Bangguo said here Saturday that regional cooperation between China and Russia is an important part of Sino-Russian strategic cooperation partnership. Meeting Volgograd State leader Nikolai Maksyuta, Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), said that the Volgograd State was a leader in developing cooperation at local government level and had had fruitful cooperation with China's Jilin Province in areas such as agriculture laboring, vegetable cultivation, education and training. He hoped that the Volgograd State would actively exploit more Chinese markets to strengthen cooperation at local government levels between the two countries to make new contributions to the overall bilateral relations...

People's Daily, 30 May 2006

Chinese top legislator pledges closer parliamentary ties with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan

Beijing, May 29: Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo pledged on Monday to boost parliamentary exchanges with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. During a meeting with Chairman of the Kazakh Senate Nurtai Abykayev, Wu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, said China and Kazakhstan are important neighbors to each other and bilateral ties have been growing smoothly since the two countries established diplomatic ties. The political mutual trust, complementary economies and mutual help in security have brought tangible benefits to the two countries and the two peoples, Wu said. The strategic partnership between the two countries, established last July during Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Kazakhstan, served as a clear guidance to the growth of bilateral ties, he said. The Chinese top legislator expressed China's willingness to boost the NPC's friendly cooperation with the Kazakh parliament, carry out exchange in legislation and oversee the implementation of accords and large-scale projects...

People's Daily, 30 May 2006

DPRK FM in Beijing for talks, will meet with Chinese Premier

Beijing, May 29: Paek Nam Sun, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), arrived in Beijing Tuesday morning for talks with senior Chinese officials on issues of common concern. "During his stay in Beijing, Paek will hold talks or meet with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan and his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing," sources with the Chinese Foreign Ministry said. "Their talks will touch upon bilateral relations, regional and international issues of common concern," the sources said. Paek is visiting China as guest of his Chinese counterpart. Paek will also tour south China's Guangdong Province, the country's booming province, which DPRK leader Kim Jong Il visited in January.

People's Daily, 30 May 2006

Beijing, New Delhi hope to deepen military ties

Beijing, May 29: Beijing and New Delhi yesterday raised the possibility of further military exchanges. The proposals, which it is hoped will enhance trust and understanding between the two armed forces, were put forward at a meeting between visiting Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his Chinese counterpart Cao Gangchuan. Cao said good neighbourly relations and mutually beneficial co-operation between China and India are in the interests of both peoples and were conducive to peace and stability throughout Asia and the world. Noting that this year is the "China-India Friendship Year", Cao said he hoped Asia's two most populous nations would be able to build stronger ties between their armed forces. Mukherjee reiterated India's commitment to developing a strategic partnership with China and greater interaction with the Chinese armed forces. The Indian defence minister, who arrived on Sunday, kicked off his maiden official visit by visiting the Academy of Military Sciences of the People's Liberation Army. He received a briefing from top experts at the academy and took part in a discussion on military technology...

People's Daily, 30 May 2006

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bilateral ties have been growing smoothly since the two countries established diplomatic ties. The political mutual trust, complementary economies and mutual help in security have brought tangible benefits to the two countries and the two peoples, Wu said. The strategic partnership between the two countries, established last July during Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to Kazakhstan, served as a clear guidance to the growth of bilateral ties, he said. The Chinese top legislator expressed China's willingness to boost the NPC's friendly cooperation with the Kazakh parliament, carry out exchange in legislation and oversee the implementation of accords and large-scale projects...

People's Daily, 31 May 2006

DPRK FM in Beijing for talks

Beijing, May 30: Paek Nam Sun, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), arrived in Beijing Tuesday for talks with senior Chinese officials on issues of common concern. "On issues that concern the interests of DPRK, China will keep communications with DPRK and step up mutual understanding and support," Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said in a meeting with Paek on Tuesday afternoon. "Li and Paek exchanged views on Korean Peninsula nuclear issues," said a statement released by Chinese Foreign Ministry. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told the regular briefing Tuesday afternoon that Paek's talks with Chinese officials were "mainly about bilateral issues." China and DPRK have conducted active exchanges and cooperation in various fields, and the bilateral relations have shown renewed vitality, the statement said. Li reiterated that China would like to work with DPRK to continuously promote the bilateral ties...

China Daily, 31 May 2006

Russia, China close ranks in Central Asia

Moscow, May 30: Russia and China moved to fortify their growing security cooperation in Central Asia but reassured the United States that their new-found unity of purpose in the region was not designed to subvert US interests there. Russian President Vladimir Putin however acknowledged growing "competition" to a new Central Asian security organization led by Moscow and Beijing while Chinese President Hu Jintao said the new group had become an "important force" for peace and stability in the world. In the first meeting of its kind, parliamentary leaders from the six countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) met Tuesday in Moscow to discuss ways to harmonize their laws and begin building a legislative dimension for the grouping. The SCO parliamentary leaders, including Wu Bangguo, chairman of the standing committee of the Chinese legislature, held a meeting at the Kremlin with Putin, who said involvement of national legislatures in the organization would "enrich the partnership" of its member states. Led by China and Russia, the SCO, founded five years ago, also includes Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Other key countries in the region -- India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan -- currently have observer status and have also expressed interest in becoming full members...

People's Daily, 31 May 2006

Top legislators praise SCO's role in international stage

Beijing, May 30: Top legislators of the six member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) highly praised the group's role in safeguarding regional and international peace and stability as they met in Moscow Tuesday for the first time. In a joint statement issued after their meeting, parliament speakers of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, said they were confident that the upcoming summit of the SCO heads of state in Shanghai next month "will give a fresh impetus to the achievements of practical results in political, economic, humanitarian and security spheres," the Itar-Tass news agency reported. The heads of state from the six member countries are expected to meet in Shanghai on June 15 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of SCO's establishment. The participants of the meeting noted that meetings of the SCO parliament speakers would become a main form of inter-parliamentary cooperation. Chairman of the Russian Federation Council (the upper house) Sergei Mironov said the SCO had responded actively to new threats and challenges since its establishment in 2001 and by cooperating closely with its members, the group has helped safeguard regional security and stability...

People's Daily, 31 May 2006

China urges Hamas to end violence with Israel

Beijing, May 30: China yesterday called for the Hamas-led Palestinian Government to renounce violence and recognize Israel. It is in the fundamental interests of the Palestinian people that Hamas accept previously reached Palestinian-Israeli agreements, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said at a regular news conference in Beijing. "Relevant parties in the Middle East should resolve disputes through political consultation on the basis of United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace," he said. The European Union and the United States have cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority since the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) formed a government

in late March. China is concerned about the situation in the Middle East, and "doesn't stand for political isolation and economic blockade", said Liu. His remarks came the day before the second ministerial meeting of the Sino-Arab Co-operation Forum, which is expected to start today. Palestinian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar is due to arrive in Beijing for the meeting of officials from China and various Arab nations...